ADVERTISEMENTS.

IMPORTANT CORPORATION GAS WORKS.
"PROFITS OF GAS AT MANCHESTER."
TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—Your paper of to-day contains in its miscellaneous department a paragraph headed "Profits of Gas at Manchester," in which some comments made by Mr. Alderman Heathcote are quoted for the purpose of explaining why the Manchester shopkeeper should sometimes to pay the Corporation 3s. per 1,000 feet for his gas, while the London tradesman is only charged 2s. by a gas company.

The data upon which the Alderman's calculations are based differ so much from the facts of the case, that I am induced to request your immediate insertion of the following rectification.

It is asserted, that while in Manchester Cannel coal costs 19s. 4d. per ton, and the coke only realises 5s. 6d. leaving 13s. 6d. chargeable to the gas, Cannel coal can be procured in London at 13s. per ton, of which 11s. is returned by the coke, and that consequently 2s. only is chargeable to the gas produced from each ton of Cannel. The truth and fact, however, is, the Lancashire Cannel coal cannot be delivered at the tonnage of the London gas works at less than 20s. per ton, nor is the coke saleable for more than 3s. leaving 17s. chargeable to the gas, and not 2s. as asserted by the Manchester Alderman. It is true that some descriptions of inferior Scotch Cannel may be purchased at about 11s. per ton, but the coke from these is nearly worthless, and the gas is in consequence more costly.

The large profits retained by the Manchester Corporation out of the gas works are constantly paraded before the public, as proving the advantages resulting from the supply of this important article being management by the municipal authorities. If the question is only superficially examined, it may bear this construction; but those who have studied the details can only see in them an injudicious system of taxing the gas consumer for purposes, the expense of which ought to be supported by the whole population. Are you, Sir, aware that every Manchester consumer of gas, burning less than 2d. worth per annum, will pays at the rate of 3s. per 1,000 feet, and that the sliding scale is so arranged that to obtain it as he must burn five million cubic feet in the year? Are you, Sir, further aware that every consumer is compelled to purchase not only his meter, but to pay the Corporation for a box in which it is lanched up, and that they have universally refused even to let out meters on hire at a rent? These are some of the means by which the large profits are secured, but which no gas company dare to practise in the present day.

It was proved in evidence before the Metropolitan Water Committee of last Session, that the Liverpool Gas Company supply as much light for 16d. as the purchaser from the Manchester Corporation rubbish gets for 18d.; and in addition to this, "the public lighting of Manchester is a disgrace to a city of its importance." The immense distance of the public lamps asunder, and the diminutive proportions of the flames in them (borrowing, not leaving burners), are subjects of free remark by every stranger, and in this respect are disadvantageously contrasted with the public lights in the adjoining borough of Salford, where a more liberal system is pursued. Millers and "truth and facts" for my money; they are on the old proverb has it) "cash down things," and with such only do I deal.

I am, Sir, faithfully yours, &c. &c.
WILLIAM PEARCE, C.E.
Gas Manufacturer, &c. &c.
16, Cumberland Market, Regent's Park and 33, Tottenham Court Road, 17th April, 1852.

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Lecture III.
Morning, June 17. } Furniture and Carvings.
Evening, " 21. }

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